

Ron Herman

Highlights for Hayward Award

I've been teaching at Foothill since 1997. I currently serve as Department Chair and as a member of the Committee on Online Learning (COOL). I've previously served on the following committees: Accreditation, Curriculum, Tenure Review, Hiring, Heritage Month Planning, Student Grievance/Due Process. In addition, I've served as faculty advisor for student clubs: (Latino Heritage, Operation Smile, Fashion) and as a Mentor for the Research and Service Leadership Symposium. I've organized numerous student exhibitions both on and off campus.

I am dedicated to celebrating diversity in my classroom and on campus. I teach in the UMOJA Community and empower students of color as tutors in a Student Tutor Program initiative in my class. I developed PHOT 8: Photography of Multicultural America which fulfills the General Education requirement (United States Cultures and Communities). This is one of the flagship courses in the Fine Arts & Communication Division and contributes greatly to both the department's WSCH and productivity. I am a regular speaker and event organizer for Heritage Month festivities (Black History, Muslim Heritage, Asian Pacific Islander Heritage, LGBTQ History, LatinX Heritage).

I am passionate about providing students with opportunities to learn about other cultures, the world, and their place in it. I was awarded a Fulbright in 2016 for research on Sufi Muslim brotherhoods in Senegal which resulted in the following campus events: photography exhibit, film screening and several lectures. In addition, I was an EPIC Community College Fellow at Stanford University in 2020-21 where I developed an innovative collaborative learning project on how picture postcards of SF Chinatown from the early 1900s were used to spread stereotypes of the Chinese in the United States and beyond.

I developed the Artist Exchange Program in 2010, which provides the opportunity for Foothill photography students to travel to Cuba to share ideas and information with Cuban artists. Students have lectured and exhibited their work in Cuba and Cuban artists have come to Foothill to do the same. These events were highlighted in the media over the years, including cover stories for the Palo Alto Weekly and Metro Silicon Valley as well as an article in the San Francisco Chronicle.

I've been invited to present at regional, national, and international conferences and was one of the few Americans invited to participate in the Havana Biennial in Cuba, considered one of Latin America's most important art events. My research and collaborative work with Cuban artists resulted in the publication of two books on the topic and was awarded a grant from Silicon Valley Creates in 2015 and a Certificate of Recognition from the Cuban Ministry of Culture in 2019.

My knowledge and expertise in the field has resulted in frequent requests to lecture at local museums (Cantor Arts Center, San Jose Museum of Art) and libraries (Menlo Park, Burlingame), as well as judge photo contests at local (Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Campbell, Los Gatos) and international photo clubs (Dublin, Ireland; New Delhi, India; Yangon, Myanmar; Havana, Cuba).

I continue to exhibit my work both nationally and internationally and stay active in the ever-changing field of photography through membership and leadership roles in professional organizations, attending professional conferences and taking creative and technical classes. I received the Dean Collins Educator Award from the National Association of Photoshop Professionals in 2006. This award is given annually to one high school or college educator nominated by his or her students for the gift for teaching, passion for quality, and contributions to the Photoshop and Photography community.